(c) the role being played by Government to help installation of a democratic Government in Iraq?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Government has been following developments in Iraq. It would not be appropriate for Government to comment on the internal developments within Iraq.

Release of Indian fishermen by Pakistan

3148. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that Pakistan has freed 529 fishermen in March, 2005;

(b) if so, the number of fishermen or other Indians still illegally detained by Pakistan in various jails of Pakistan; and

(c) the measures Government are taking for release of remaining Indians from Pakistani Jails?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Pakistan Government released 528 Indian fishermen on March 22, 2005.

(b) About 270 Indian fishermen are still held in Pakistani jails.

(c) Government is constantly taking up with the Government of Pakistan, through diplomatic channels, the matter of the release of the remaining Indian fishermen. During the Foreign Secretary level talks held on 27-28 December, 2004 at Islamabad, it was agreed that repatriation of fishermen of each other's country would be done immediately after the completion of sentence and nationality verification. During the visit of External Affairs Minister to Pakistan from February 15-17, 2005, the issue of early release and repatriation of all the Indian fishermen along with their boats was again taken up.

Normalisation of relations with Pakistan

3149. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is significant development in respect of border crimes, infiltration, attacks by terrorists and the number of people